



CITY OF HOUSTON

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The Honorable Tom Craddick
Chairman, House Committee on Transportation

RE: House Bill 4348 relating to a prohibition on certain roadway projects and to the distribution of affordable housing funds to local governmental entities that violate that prohibition

Dear Chairman Craddick:

On behalf of the City of Houston, I write in opposition of House Bill 4348 and ask that this written testimony be included in the formal legislative record for HB 4348. The City and I thank the Committee and Chairman for the opportunity to comment regarding this proposed legislation.


HB 4348 involves adding red tape and strips home rule cities of their ability to fully control their own local streets. Houston is a nearly 200-year-old city, and we occasionally vacate, abandon, or close our city streets based on our ongoing needs and how they change. It is unclear how a state-run commission could have more expertise on how best Houston should utilize our own streets.

The requirement that we would have to pay for an election to determine support would be a waste of funds because our abandonments require city council approval and are posted for public comment.

This bill would also threaten to take away our state-allocated affordable housing funds if we were to reallocate existing vehicular roadway space to even a transit stop or parking space. We need transit stops and street parking spaces in Houston, and there are serious concerns that you would deny affordable housing options to our citizens on this basis.

The City of Houston vehemently disagrees with this bill.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

Vonn Tran

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